# PITCOMBE news



## The Longed-for Pitcombe Parish Summer Party

Food & entertainment free to all Parish residents Saturday 17th July 2021, 4.30pm Hadspen Village Hall

#### Hog roast

Vegetarian options
Soft drinks, Ice Cream
Live music
Morris dancers
Cash Bar



This merry event is being hosted by the Village Hall to re-unite the community. A festive occasion where friends and neighbours can gather, after a prolonged period of separation, and where new acquaintances are made. It's a family affair, with all ages welcome.

FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM: Anthony Hodges in Hadspen Gerald Spratling in Cole/Pitcombe Chris Mounsey in Higher Hadspen Martin Jennings in Pitcombe 01963 351 429 01749 812 806 01963 359 488 01749 812 397

June 2021

## What's on...

# June 2021

Sunday 6th 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th 11am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 11th 7.30pm Parish Council Meet on Zoom

Friday 14th Black bins

Sunday 20th 11 am Holy Communion

Sunday 27th 6pm Evensong

Friday Black bin collection

Sunday No service

EVENT

<u>...weekly</u>

Short Mat Bowls Read the report on pg 25 for the latest

<u>.later</u>

# June 2021 welcome

# PITCOMBE NEWS

The 21st June is scheduled in the UK as the 'All Clear' of Covid Day. In the US, it is designated as 'Go Skateboarding Day' and it also happens to be Prince William's birthday. Let us see which of these is given most prominence in the papers on that day.

The 17<sup>th</sup> May will be remembered in Pitcombe as the day that the Village Hall reopened for business after a prolonged shutdown. Regular users are returning to the Hall, such as the Short Mat Bowls Club, services at St Leonard's are now on their normal schedule and the Gardening Associations are back to scheduling their summer meetings and outings. The Vale of Camelot has made a welcome return to advertise its bedding and basket plants.

The Parish Council publishes its Annual Report and is pleased to report being within budget and can declare a healthy financial position. The Council has done a great job in guiding us through this difficult period, sticking faithfully to their monthly meetings (via Zoom) and generally taking care of Parish business.

Bring on the 17<sup>th</sup> July, when the Village Hall will be holding its Summer Party to celebrate the ability of the community to gather in numbers after a long period of separation.

Contributions please to the Editors by 15th of the month—contact details in the Parish Directory page 14



# **JUNE 2021**

#### St Leonard's

We welcome everyone to our services at St Leonard's, which are now on our normal schedule. We need to follow government guidelines and we ask you to wear a face covering and to ensure that social distancing of 2 metres between those from separate households is adhered to. Also please use the hand sanitiser provided on the chest immediately through the door upon entering the church. For the track and trace scheme we will need to take the contact details of those attending.

Services at St Leonard's in June are as follows:

Holy Communion on 6<sup>th</sup> June at 9:30am – Rev'd Jonathan Evans

Morning Prayer on 13<sup>th</sup> June at 11:00am – Rev'd Jonathan Evans

Holy Communion on 20<sup>th</sup> June at 11:00am – Rev'd Dan Richards

Evening Prayer on 27<sup>th</sup> June at 6:00pm – Rev'd Jonathan Evans

I am hopeful that at some point in the coming months we will be able to sing again with an organ accompaniment rather than just listen to the hymns. We have such a rich heritage of lovely hymns, and singing the traditional hymns is something that I have really missed.

Philip Pidsley Church Warden

## Rector's Ruminations

'Is that seat taken?' in the past, that has always seemed to me to be a reasonably polite and sufficiently clear way in which to ask whether I might sit in an apparently vacant seat next to or near someone else. After all, if the seat is currently empty, asking 'Is anyone sitting there?' seems a bit redundant — clearly no-one is sitting there. Asking 'May I sit next to you?' seems to demand too much — it is a bit overfamiliar.

Now, however, as we emerge from the restrictions on who is legally permitted to sit where and with whom, I think I might have to adopt a different phrasing for my question. It may well be that the seat is available, but that the person would much rather remain at a distance that they perceive to be safe. 'Do you mind if I sit next to you?' at least gives the person the opportunity to say that they do indeed mind and would prefer to keep the now customary 2m between them and me, but it could be difficult for them to express that preference without appearing rude. Perhaps I should try 'Would you be comfortable if I were to take that seat, or would you prefer to keep that space free?'. It's a bit wordy though.

My point is not so much about an exercise in social niceties, but a real need to be careful as we resume more social contact (please God) in the weeks and months ahead. We must not simply assume that we can flop down into an adjacent seat, still less warmly hug or embrace another in the way we have previously thought acceptable. The boundaries of someone's 'personal space' may be wider than before and we may need to approach others with more caution if we are to avoid causing distress. Some will welcome a friendly handshake or hug, but others may wish to keep a gap.

So I will try to remember not to presume too much and not to be offended if someone seems to be making a point of ensuring that the seat next to them is definitely not available – mind you, that was not entirely unknown pre-pandemic if wearing a clerical collar...

#### Rev'd Jonathan Evans

## PARISH COUNCIL



#### Report of the year for Pitcombe Parish Council 2020 – 2021

For the purposes of this report, I have concentrated on the most recent 12 months, and refer anyone interested in the minutes in respect of meetings conducted between April 2019 and March 2020.

The year has been dominated by the impact of the COVID pandemic on our community and our council has been doing its bit to carry on a normal routine under such abnormal circumstances. I would like to start by thanking all councillors who have adapted to the demands of the situation by attending meetings by Zoom and continuing this voluntary activity whilst all our lives were under the stresses and challenges of the pandemic. We have met our statutory obligations, maintained control of the finances and continued with those activities, which sometimes are unremarkable but do make a difference.

The financial year has been accounted for and it is good to report that we remained within budget and can declare a healthy position. We had to make provision for a higher clerk's salary when Zoe replaced Holly and that has continued into the new financial year, following the appointment of Patrick to the role. Salary costs reflect the expertise and experience the clerk brings to our council. We were also able to offer support to the Pitcombe News to enable it to continue printing at a time when communication within the immediate area has been extremely important.

As ever, planning matters have been a major feature of the council's workload and we have discussed and commented on a number of applications in the past 12 months. Details of all the cases are recorded in the minutes of meetings available on the website. For the benefit of the residents, it may be worth pointing out that the council does not have the power to decide these matters. We can support or oppose applications and raise areas of concern, but the decisions are ultimately made at District Council level. Those applications of greatest concern to the community have included the proposal to build houses on the site of Pitcombe Farm, the use of land adjacent to Mill Lane and the access to a site on the old railway line

The council has continued to work to manage potential flooding in Pitcombe, with proposals under consideration by the Highways department to address run off from Pitcombe Rock. The support of local volunteers to clear drains etc. does make a difference so thanks are due to those who have helped out. We are also exploring ways to protect the bridge at Pitcombe, by means of a listing as an ancient monument by English Heritage and pressing Highways for any necessary maintenance to be carried out in a timely fashion.

Walking has become a vital activity for many as a response to the pandemic and the council has been engaged with SCC in preserving footpaths, identifying the need for repairs to stiles and signage and reinstating the original course of the footpath from Cole to Pitcombe through a field adjacent to Cole Manor. We have also joined an organization called Gleam which has an interest in preserving green lanes and safe places to walk.

Finally, I would like to express the gratitude of the council and the whole community to all residents for their actions large or small, which have helped us through the challenges of the COVID. Many of these actions will have been modest and unremarkable, but collectively, made life that little bit more tolerable. Those who have volunteered or organized Whatsapp groups or run errands or checked someone is ok, have all made a difference. Hopefully, we are through the worst but in any case, thank you all and continued good health.

#### Richard Waller, Chairman

## **Odd Jobs**

For all those jobs you never get around to doing!

General Household and Garden Maintenance inc. Lawn Mowing (4x4 Ride on with high grass mulch deck or collector), Fencing, Removals and Deliveries (Large, Long Wheelbase Van)



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# Everyone Sang

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;

And I was filled with such delight

As prisoned birds must

find in freedom,

Winging wildly across the white

Orchards and dark-green fields; on - on - and out of sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;

And beauty came like the setting sun:

My heart was shaken with tears; and horror

Drifted away ... O, but Everyone

Was a bird; and the song was wordless; the singing will never be done.

By Siegfried Sassoon, after the 1st WW, April 1919

Thank you to Merida Drysdale for choosing this for us to publish as June 21st comes into view

# Quaker Meeting House open again

The local Quaker Meeting House in Wincanton has now reopened. Situated down the passageway between 32 & 34 High Street, meetings are held 10.30-11.30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and it is now possible to join the meeting online via Zoom.

The Peace Garden is open from 9.00 a.m. to 6 p.m. and all are welcome to use it. We also have The Barn available for hire and we hope to host future events in both the Meeting House and the Barn.

For further information please contact Ray Leary by email: <a href="mclach-lan3@mac.com">mclach-lan3@mac.com</a>.

# An editorial appeal

As you know the Pitcombe News relies for its content on contributions from members of the Parish. The content should reflect the activities within community, the basis of which comes from monthly reports by the Parish Council, St Leonard's Church and the Village Hall. Societies and clubs often submit articles on their activities and the magazine is used to advertise future events.

But the spice and colour comes from contributions from individuals who have stories to relate or want to share experiences with others. And this is where the appeal comes in. It is your magazine and should reflect your ideas of what should appear on its pages. If there is anything you think we should be including (or anything you don't like) we would be delighted to hear from you.

Also we'd like you to consider contributing yourselves to make it a truly communal effort. Ideas you might think about are:

Film, theatre, restaurant and book reviews Recent holidays or trips, memoirs, interesting or amusing experiences. Recipes, poetry, puzzles



## The Longed-for Pitcombe Parish Summer Party

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## Hog roast

Vegetarian options
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FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:	Anthony Hodges in Hadspen	01963 351 429
	Gerald Spratling in Cole/Pitcombe	01749 812 806
	Chris Mounsey in Higher Hadspen	01963 359 488
	Martin Jennings in Pitcombe	01749 812 397

# THE HAPPY COOKER



## Tomato Tarts - Serves 6

Lovely in-hand food to graze on, either with a few lightly dressed salad leaves, as a starter, or cut into quarters to pass round as a nibble with drinks. They are also sufficiently pizza-like to appeal to most children; in which case you'll need twice the number! Perfect picnic food, methinks.

## **INGREDIENTS**

350g puff pastry sea salt

Dijon mustard black pepper

10-12 small tomatoes on the vine, thinly- 30g finely shaved parmesan

sliced extra-virgin olive oil

1 egg yolk blended with 1 tbsp water

## **MFTHOD**

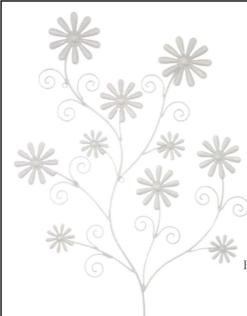
- 1. Heat oven to 220\* / gas mark 7
- 2. Thinly roll out the pastry on a lightly floured surface, half at a time. Cut out 6 x 12cm circles using a bowl or a plate as a guide. Arrange these on a couple of baking trays.
- 3. Spread a little Dijon mustard in the centre of each pastry circle, to within about 1 cm of the rim.
- 4. Arrange the tomato slices in an overlapping circle ending up with an end slice in the middle. Brush the surrounding rim with egg wash, then season the tomatoes. Top with a few slivers of Parmesan, drizzle over a little olive oil and bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes until golden and risen.
- 5. Serve hot or cold.

Pitcombe News		
Parish Council		
Chairman	Richard Waller	01749 812754
		rjtwaller@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk	Patrick Pender-Cudlip	07742 930521
		clerk@pitcombepc.org.uk.
St Leonard's Church		
The Rector	Rev'd Jonathan Evans	01749 812775
	mobile	07305 736042
		rector@stmarysbruton.org.
Benefice Office		01749 813080
		benefice@stmarysbruton.org
Bell-ringing	Tina Harley	01749 813262
		tina.harley@btinternet.com
Church Flowers roster	Tina Harley	01749 813262
		tina.harley@btinternet.com
Church Wardens	Philip Pidsley	01749 813842
		philip.pidsley@btinternet.com
PPC Secretary	Carole Wyatt	01963 350222
		carolewyatt@btinternet.com
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		catherinebrook@aol.com
Hadspen Village Hall		
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		arctheduke@gmail.com
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	Jan James	01963 350464
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Secretary	Sheelagh Douglas	07733 102819.
		sdmdouglas7@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

		•
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-		paulparsons7@googlemail.com
Avon and Somerset Police		
Emergencies		999
Non Emergencies		101
<u>Healthcare</u>		
Bruton Surgery		01749 812 310
Wincanton Health Centre		01963 435700
Shepton Mallet Treatment Centre		01749 333600
Local Government		
District Councillor,	Robin Bastable	01749 812335
		robin.bastable@southsomerset.gov.uk
County Councillor	Anna Groskop.	01749 812520
		amgroskop@somerset.gov.uk
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Roads and Transport		portSD@somerset.gov.uk

#### Pitcombe News



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## Food for Thought



A legend tells that the Greek mathematician Thales of Miletus was approached one day by a philosopher, who, trying to confuse him, asked him 9 questions to test his wisdom:

What is the greatest of all things?

Space, because it contains everything created.

What is the most constant?

Hope, because it remains in man after he has lost everything

What is the best of all things?

Virtue, because without it there would be nothing good.

What is the fastest of all things?

Thought, because in less than a minute it allows us to fly to the confines of the universe.

What is the strongest of all things?

Need, because it is with what man faces all the dangers in life.

What is the easiest of all things?

Give advice.

Finally, the last question, which astonished the philosopher, who could not understand the answer of Thales of Miletus:

And what is the most difficult of all things?

The sage replied: "Know yourself."



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# Castle Cary Gardening Association

#### **Castle Cary Gardening Association and Ramblings**

This is just the most beautiful and optimistic time of the year, I think. The green is almost too bright to look at, the light is clear and clean and the promise of the warmth to come is energising. The weather has been too dry, too cold, too wet and too much in general but still nature manages to keep its head and do what it has to do. We gardeners just have to do the same.

The tulips I confessed to last autumn have done their utterly glorious tarty thing and 'The List' in the diary for next autumn's bulbs shopping is already underway. Now it's just keeping on top of it all but enjoying things as they are and not fretting about what doesn't get done. Gardening should be a pleasure rather than housework out of doors!

The garden Club has a new website <u>castlecarygardening.com</u> so do take a look and find out what and who we are. We are still not meeting up in person but providing Zoom talks. Members are sent the link for 7.15pm, the talk starts at 7.30pm and they take place on the first Thursday of the month. New members are always welcome. Annual membership only costs £7 which has several perks as well as the talks.

The **June 3**<sup>rd</sup> talk is to be from Castle Gardens called 'Garden Friends or Foe?' looking at the heroes and villains that crop up in the garden.

AND **August 7<sup>th</sup>** will be our **Annual Show!** We are planning to run the show in Caryford Hall as usual, but we are reducing the Classes to flowers and plants, vegetables and Floral Art only. We will, of course, be following the COVID rules that are required of us at the time. The show schedule and all the details for entries are on our \*NEW\* website. Anyone of any age can enter, see what is there for you.

Happy Gardening and good luck with your growing!

#### **Erica Holt**

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## An Ode to Swifts

Swifts, swifts, the swifts are here at last! Screaming in and round on banking turns, boy racers burning up the circuit, shrieking crowds of crossbows, above school playgrounds and church spires and beer gardens, some of the last migrants back and some of the first to leave.

They sleep on the wing, ascend to 600 metres or more at dusk, heading out over the North Sea on the glide, out beyond Stansted, avoiding the planes that are flying for Munich, for Paris, for Prague.

Swifts are storm-seekers, moving ahead of thunderclouds where the updrafts drive insects to swift height. Swifts are airscape readers, flying round the southern edge of depressions to reach warmth where the insects will mass. When rain comes to the east of the country, the swifts make huge outwards loops across Europe in search of food: 2,000-kilometre insect quests over Calais supermarket car parks, hot Belgian plains, the roof canopy of Paris.

Written by the late Hamish Craig

## Bruton & District Horticultural Soc

It's great to have some dates in the diary again after so long.

Unless Covid rules change, these are our plans:

21 June Annual Garden Supper, including a free plant table

15 July Visit to Bristol Botanic Gardens.

27 July Visit to Hestercombe Gardens

Our show is on 21 August in the Sports Hall at King's School.

We are planning a visit to Exbury Gardens in late October for the autumn colour. In addition, we have a programme of autumn talks.

Details are being sent to members and will be on www.brutonhorticultural.org.uk.

Booking is essential for the garden supper and the visits. Everyone is welcome. Do come and join us and help put this awful stay-at-home year behind us.

#### Alison Bleasdale

## Village Hall

The Hall reopened as scheduled to all regular users and potential hirers on May 17th.

Our first delighted user was Paul Parsons and his very successful Ballroom Dance classes, followed by the Bruton Art Society. Others are gradually coming back, and we expect to return to a full-user programme as the national covid picture continues to improve - fingers crossed!

You cannot possibly have missed the news on the front cover of this edition about our planned Summer Party, scheduled for **Saturday the 17**<sup>th</sup> **July**. Be sure to diarise and commit to memory this merry occasion. It is being hosted by the Village Hall and **all food and entertainment is free,** including a Hog Roast (with vegetarian options) Salads and Ice Cream, Live Music and Morris Dancers. It is the big opportunity for friends and neighbours to gather, after such a prolonged period of separation, and for new acquaintances to be made.

We look forward to expanding the numbers of Pitcombe residents who use, are aware of the facilities and attend our seasonal events. We are continuing to comply with all the necessary requirements to enable us to be open, and all users have undertaken to abide by them. We can therefore continue to operate with confidence.

#### VHC

## Vale of Camelot Growers

info@valeofcamelotgrowers.co.uk

Are we frost-free? It's the big question. We'd like to think so but always be aware of night-time temperatures and have some fleece or similar ready just in case! Everything's kicking off spectacularly now, bedding and basket plants all well-rooted showing plenty of colour and ready for planting into containers or borders. Lots to choose from....you won't be disappointed, so make a date to come and visit.

PERENNIALS - don't you just love the way a perennial returns year after year with very little effort. We've got some real treats this season and they're looking lush and healthy and it's just perfect planting weather - no watering in!

Beautiful hanging baskets now on sale from £9.50 - £30 and there's still time to order one if you want particular colours or plants.

# Hadspen Short Mat Bowls

Having been unable to bowl for some time due to the Covid pandemic, I'm really pleased to be able to report that bowling will be starting again in a small way this month.

We will be bowling on our usual Wednesday evenings at the Village Hall but until restrictions are relaxed further, we can only have 8 players during the evening. The ESMBA, which is the National Body for Short Mat Bowls, have very stringent rules regarding play and safety of players and Hadspen Club has the accreditation of a 'Safe bowling Club' following the Risk Assessment carried out during the pandemic. We will also of course be following the guidance issued by the Village Hall Committee to help keep everyone safe.

It will be good to gradually see all our players again. Playing bowls is a sociable sport, and I think a lot of players have missed this aspect of the game. We are asking them to book in when they want to play, and a ballot will be held if we have too many requests to play on some Wednesdays, but we will do our best to ensure that everyone who wishes to play can do so but maybe not every week! Unfortunately, spectators are not allowed.

Some of our players play in National competitions as well as local charitable events and in the Yeovil League, and I think these will come back eventually but further down the line.

However, on a positive note, we are very much looking forward to our Wednesday night's bowling again and I personally hope that my increased waistline which has expanded through the pandemic will start to recede again with the exercise!

#### **Carole Wyatt**

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